

OFFICE OF THE
SOUTH CHURCH,
(Congregational).

ARTHUR DIETRICK, Minister,
Residence, 20 Chestnut St.

PEABODY, MASS., 5-29-07

P A S T O R ' S R E P O R T

The eighth report of the pastor to the Church Cabinet, season of 1906-7

* * * * *

To the members of South Church Cabinet,
Peabody Mass.

Dear Friends:- Since the last report we have reaped the harvest for which we have been working since last autumn, and fifteen of our young people have united with this church at the last communion, of whom fourteen were upon profession of faith. There have been many felicitations received upon this accession to our working force, both from among our own people and from neighboring pastors. However, I do not share in the general elation, for I am so thoroughly convinced that the harvest might have been far larger that I am rather inclined to regret the size of the accession than to congratulate the church upon it. The forces which lead people to make public profession of faith in God are as real and inexorable laws as those which produce the annual grain harvest, and our only excuse for not reaping more proportionately to our sowing is our ignorance of and failure to use these spiritual laws in their proper spheres of operation. Let us here and now resolve that next spring we shall, by the grace and help of God whom we seek to serve, realize as much larger returns as the most intelligent, prayerful, and unremitting effort throughout the year can secure. Of many plans of work I have never seen or tested one which actually yielded so large a percentage of results as this one of definitely planning to produce a spiritual atmosphere conducive to

OFFICE OF THE
SOUTH CHURCH
(Congregational)

ARTHUR DITTRICK, Minister
Residence, 20 Chestnut St.

PHABODY, MASS., 8-28-07

P A S T O R ' S R E P O R T

The eighth report of the pastor to the Church Cabinet, season of 1906-7

* * * * *

To the members of South Church Cabinet,

Phabody Mass.

Dear Friends:- Since the last report we have reaped the harvest for which we have been working since last autumn, and fifteen of our young people have united with this church at the last communion, of whom fourteen were upon profession of faith. There have been many felicitations received upon this occasion to our working force, both from among our own people and from neighboring pastors. However, I do not share in the general elation, for I am so thoroughly convinced that the harvest might have been far larger that I am rather inclined to regret the state of the occasion than to congratulate the church upon it. The forces which lead people to make public profession of faith in God are as real and inexorable laws as those which produce the annual grain harvest, and our only answer, for not reaping next season, is our unwillingness to our ignorance of and failure to use these spiritual laws in their proper spheres of operation. Let us have and now resolve that next spring we shall, by the grace and help of God, be as active, besides as much larger return as the most intelligent, persistent, and unrelenting effort that the year can see. Of many plans of work I have never seen or tested one which actually yielded as large a percentage of results as this one of definitely planning to produce a spiritual atmosphere conducive to

conversion by shaping the work and directing the influences of the church to this end at springtime. The present accession perfectly corroborates the wisdom of this hypothesis, tho it by no means demonstrates its entire possibilities.

Just how much daily and nightly activity has been expended by the pastor during this harvest period is impossible to reduce to the terms of a written report. So far as statistics go, the record of pastoral activity is as follows:

37 pastoral calls have been made, mainly on the sick and those considering church membership; 41 pastoral letters have been written exclusive of any circulars; ten sermons have been prepared and delivered; 44 meeting of various sorts have been attended in an official capacity, including the regular sunday and mid-week services of the church, the pastor's training classes, and the various auxiliary societies and committees; also the spring meeting of Essex South Conference at Manchester and the annual meeting of the General Association at Westfield from May 21 to 23 inclusive. As already reported there have been 15 accessions to our membership, 14 on confession of faith, and 1 by letter; and 8 adult baptisms. The only loss is by the death on May 26th of Mrs. Hannah Osborn aged 76 whose funeral services the pastor conducted today.

The attendance and interest in all departments of the church is increasing. As shown by the other reports, the various societies are in flourishing numerical and financial condition. The sunday morning attendance has been counted by the sexton for several weeks and shows the following result; April 14, 251; April 21, 256; April 28 not counted in the pastor's absence; May 5, 354, May 19, 256; May 26, 700.

The simple platform of belief recited by the candidates for ad-

conversation by shaping the work and directing the influence of the church to this end at springtime. The present association perfectly corroborates the wisdom of this hypothesis, for it by no means demonstrates its entire possibility.

Just how much daily and nightly activity has been expended by the pastor during this harvest period is impossible to reduce to the terms of a written report. So far as statistics go, the record of pastoral activity is as follows:

27 pastoral calls have been made, mainly on the sick and the suffering; 41 pastoral letters have been written; 41 exclusive of any churches; two persons have been prepared and baptized; 44 meetings of various sorts have been attended in an official capacity, including the regular Sunday and mid-week services of the church, the pastor's training classes, and the various auxiliary societies and committees; also the spring meeting of the General Conference at Nashville and the annual meeting of the General Association at Nashville from May 21 to 23 inclusive. As already reported there have been 18 baptisms to our membership, 14 on confession of faith, and 4 by letter; and 2 adult baptisms. The only loss is by the death of Mrs. Hannah Gibson aged 76 whose funeral services the pastor conducted today.

The attendance and interest in all departments of the church is most encouraging. As shown by the other reports, the various societies are in flourishing condition and financial condition. The Sunday morning attendance has been constant, the station for several weeks and a few of the following results: April 14, 201; April 21, 201; April 28, 201; May 5, 201; May 12, 201; May 19, 201; May 26, 201. The singing school of which mention was made in the last report for the

page 3, pastor's report, 5-29-07

mission to the church on May 5th has attracted much favorable comment from neighboring pastors, and at least two churches in the state have adapted it for their own use. It would seem to the pastor that some such declaration might well be incorporated in our manual when we come to reprint it.

A number of suggestions for the work will be presented by the pastor at the proper time.

Respectfully submitted

Will Arthur Dietrick

